

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A paint roller cleaner comprising:

a cylindrical housing having an opening adapted to receive a paint roller, said opening having associated therewith an outer flange portion for removing paint from said paint roller, and said cylindrical housing being a very close fit around said paint roller for removing further paint therefrom, said removal of paint constituting a first cleaning action on said paint roller; and:

external locking means for securing said paint roller in said cylindrical housing, said external locking means attaching to a handle of said paint roller, whereby said paint roller is restrained from movement relative to the housing by the locking means; and whereby cleaning fluid is introduced into the housing under pressure to thereby effect a second cleaning action on said paint roller; and

a pressure relief means provided on the housing and including a vent opening that is closed by a plug; wherein said plug is able to be released by pressure within the housing.

2. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the locking means includes a hook member designed to lock around and restrain the handle of the paint roller thereby securing the roller with respect to the cleaner for use.

3. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the locking means is located close to the opening of the housing in which the paint roller is received.

4. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the locking means is a hook which is upstanding from an outer surface of the housing and generally in line axially therewith, said hook being formed by walls upstanding from the outer surface of the housing and curving around to join one another.

5. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the locking means is a snap fit locking means.

6. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said flange portion is positioned perpendicular to the axis of the housing.

7. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein an outer edge of the flange portion has a semi-circular indent serving as a scraper that may be used to remove excess paint held in a roller before the roller is inserted into the housing.

8. Canceled

9. Canceled

10. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 1, wherein the housing further includes an oversized end projection that fits over the vent opening thereby securing the plug in position until a pressure build-up within housing causes the plug to be released.